

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Masahiro WATANABE et al.	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Application No.:	)	Examiner:
	)	
Filed: April 3, 2006	)	Confirmation No.:
	)	
For: A SULFONATED AROMATIC	)	
POLYETHER, A METHOD FOR	)	
PRODUCING THE SAME, AND AN	)	
ELECTROLYTE MEMBRANE (as	)	
amended)	)	

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PETITIONS  
FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME AND PAYMENT OF FEES**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

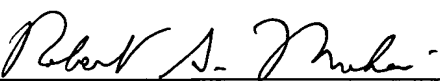
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby provided with a general authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as containing a request therefor for the appropriate length of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: April 3, 2006

By:   
Robert G. Mukai  
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620